

Sincerely yours,
THE FIRST PRESIDENCY
By David O. McKay
Hugh B. Brown.

The new stake center and two-ward chapel proposed for construction is estimated to cost \$435,000.

Although not mentioned in the First Presidency's letter, it is known that plans include the destruction of the Amusement Hall, constructed by Wasatch Stake in 1907 on the same block.

Provo Herald 27 May 1965
HERALDING the News

Heber Tabernacle Gets Another Reprieve . . .

The Heber Tabernacle has been saved by more last-minute reprieves than the hero in a spy movie.

The latest one came today. Read all about it on Page 8.

The circus is coming to town—something pretty rare in this day and age. The details are on Page 5.

Elsewhere, graduations, student awards, and, whether it's pleasant or not, the latest on Viet Nam and this troubled old world.

8 Daily Herald THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1965
Utah County, Utah

Series of Meetings Called

Heber Tabernacle Gets Reprieve, Says Head Of Preservation Group

The chairman of the committee to save the Wasatch Stake Tabernacle in Heber today issued a statement that the committee has "been given assurance that it (the tabernacle) can still be saved if satisfactory financial arrangements and plans for its future use and maintenance can be worked out in the immediate future."

The statement was issued by Don Barker of Heber, who also announced a series of meetings scheduled to discuss the problem.

"Although it was announced last week that the LDS Church had approved demolition of the building, members of the committee and others interested in preserving the structure have been given assurance that it can still be saved if satisfactory financial arrangements and plans for its future use and maintenance can be worked out in the immediate future," Chairman Barker said.

A series of meetings aimed at saving what is regarded as one of Utah's most picturesque and historic landmarks, was

announced by Mr. Barker.

A group of present and former residents of Heber will meet Friday at 5 p.m. in the office of Dr. Everett Cooley, director of the Utah State Historical Society, at the society's headquarters, 603 E. South Temple, Salt Lake City, to name a steering committee to formulate plans for an all-out "save the tabernacle" drive.

A second meeting to which all interested parties are invited will be held at the historical society's headquarters Sunday at 3 p.m., and a third meeting is scheduled at Heber Monday at 3 p.m. at Memorial Hall, 49 E. 1st No., to correlate activities of all groups working on the program.

The tabernacle building has been the center of a bitter fight since the summer of 1964 between Wasatch Stake President Harold Call and his supporters who seek to tear it down, and a citizens' committee seeking to preserve it. Stake authorities have announced plans to raze it and construct a \$435,000 new stake center and two-ward chapel on the same site.

Tabernacle Faces Destruction

The First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has given the green light for a new two-ward and stake center to replace the present Wasatch Stake Tabernacle.

Bids from contractors for the razing of the Tabernacle will be taken soon, according to the office of J Harold Call, president of the Wasatch Stake and the building program will begin immediately.

While no date for completion has been set it is estimated that the new construction will cost an estimated \$435,000, and the Wasatch

Stake will need to raise about 11 percent of the cost or about \$47,850.

Mr. Call's office reports the Wasatch Stake must have \$47,000 raised before construction can get underway, but that "most of this amount is already available." The new building will be built under the Missionary Building program.

The issue of what to do with the present Tabernacle has been debated for the last year since plans were first announced the historic building would be demolished.

A committee of the LDS Council of the Twelve Apostles investigated several possibilities on what to do about a new construction and then made recommendations to the First Presidency in Salt Lake.

A letter signed by Church President David O. McKay and President Hugh B. Brown, first counsellor in the First Presidency, giving permission for the razing and new construction said:

"You are at liberty to proceed to raze the old building and to go forward in the regular way to do what will be necessary to have a

new building erected on the present site."

City officials had requested the church make a donation of the building and land to the city, but this was denied.

Everett Cooley, Director of the Utah State Historical Society called the plans for razing the Tabernacle a "great mistake and great loss to Heber City, Wasatch Co. and the state of Utah."

Mr. Cooley had spearheaded a campaign last year, including a fund drive from citizens throughout the state, in an effort to save the historic building.

Wasatch Tabernacle Doomed by Letter From First Presidency

HEBER — The Wasatch LDS Tabernacle—center of a bitter year-long fight to save it from destruction — has received its death sentence through an order to raze it signed by two members of the First LDS Presidency.

The letter, addressed to Wasatch Stake President Harold Call and his counselors, was signed by LDS President David O. McKay and his first counselor, Hugh B. Brown.

Several months ago the First Presidency—following the recommendation of an investigative

committee of three members of the Quorum of the Twelve—addressed a letter to President Call directing him to seek a site elsewhere for a proposed stake center and two-ward chapel to replace the old tabernacle.

The letter was interpreted by many as a victory for the fight to save the tabernacle—which President Call and his supporters have long sought to tear down—but it was conditioned on an extended date for a satisfactory disposition of the building by those who sought to save it.

The latest letter from President McKay and First Counselor Brown ordered the destruction of the building and the erection of the new stake center on the same site. The letter indicated that no satisfactory solution had been offered to save the building by those seeking to prevent its destruction.

Long, Bitter Fight

The decision represents a victory for President Call and his supporters in a long and bitter fight against a citizens' group seeking to prevent destruction of the historic, stately building — constructed of native red sandstone in 1887. At one time, 1366 adult members of Wasatch Stake signed a petition to save it.

A copy of the letter from the First Presidency, dated May 19, follows:

"President J. Harold Call
and Counselors
"Wasatch Stake

"Dear Brethren:

"We have given careful consideration to the recommendations that have been submitted to us by interested groups in Heber City and Wasatch Stake, and by a committee of the Quorum of the Twelve appointed some time ago to investigate and give us its recommendation on the subject of the old Wasatch Stake Building.

"Since the proposal that the old building be not razed cannot be supported by contributions for the purchase of another site for a new building for the stake, and since it is represented to us that the majority of stake officers, high council, bishops and the people want to build a new tabernacle on the site where the old tabernacle stands, we have decided that the old building should be razed and a new building erected on the old site.

"We have included in the foregoing consideration the wish of the mayor and the city council that the Church give the property to the city, but we are not prepared to do this.

"You are therefore at liberty to proceed to raze the old building and to go forward in the regular way to do what will be necessary to have the new building.

Wasatch Stake: A New Site

By JUNE WHEELER
Deseret News Correspondent

HEBER CITY — The First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has advised Wasatch Stake officers to secure a new site for a proposed stake and two-ward center.

The decision gives new life to the Heber Committee attempting to preserve the old tabernacle and surrounding area as a possible park and museum.

The announcement was made after a visit to the area by Elders Marion G. Romney, Howard W. Hunter and Thomas S. Mon-

son of the Council of Twelve. It also extends to June 30 a determination of the use of the tabernacle site.

The group spent a day in Heber City interviewing Church officials, city council members, county commissioners, members of the committee attempting to save the building, and other citizens.

Their recommendation for a new site cited these reasons: The present site is located on the main street in the center of commercial district. It creates a traffic hazard, presents a parking problem and is subjected to traffic noise.

The three members of the Council of Twelve said their findings were supported by nearly everyone they interviewed.

They recommended that Stake President J. Harold Call and the bishops of the Second and Fifth Wards immediately secure a suitable site within the two ward boundaries and proceed with construction.

They also recommended that they sell back to the city the tennis court property on the southwest corner of the block, west of the court house for \$15,000, the original purchase price.

The property had been sold to the Church by the city with the expectation that it would be used in connection with the construction of the new building. If the Church did not use the property for the new building, the agreement was that the city would take back the property.

The \$15,000 would be applied to the cost of the new building.

In extending the time to find a guarantor it was felt that it would eliminate any basis for criticism that ample time had not been given to allow the committee to accomplish its purpose.

Des News 27 May 1965

Heber Schedules Tabernacle Meet

Meetings aimed at asaying one of Utah's most picturesque and historic landmarks were announced Thursday by Don Barker, Heber, chairman of the Committee for Preservation of the Heber Tabernacle.

Present and former residents of Heber will meet Friday at 5 p.m. in the office of Dr. Everett Coolley, director of the Utah State Historical Society, at the society's headquarters, 603 E. South Temple, to name a steering committee to formulate plans for an all-out "save the tabernacle" drive.

A second meeting, to which all interested parties are invited,

will be held at the Historical Society headquarters Sunday at 3 p.m. The third meeting is scheduled in Heber Monday at 3 p.m. at the Memorial Hall, 49 E. 1st North, to coordinate activities of all groups working on the program.

Although it was announced last week that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints had approved emolition of the building, members of the committee and others feel that it can be saved if satisfactory financial arrangements and plans for its future use and maintenance can be worked out soon.